

NCA  
VOC FOR IOP/FN  
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MARK HOPKINS/WARSAW

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# POLAND - THE NEW EMIGRATION

ANNCR:

UNDER A NEW POLISH-WEST GERMAN AGREEMENT, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ETHNIC GERMANS WILL BE ABLE TO EMIGRATE FROM POLAND IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. VOA CORRESPONDENT MARK HOPKINS SENDS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT FROM WARSAW.

VOICE:

THE AGREEMENT IS LOOKED ON DIFFERENTLY HERE THAN IN WEST GERMANY -- WHERE IN THE MOST CYNICAL DESCRIPTION IT IS TRAFFICKING IN PEOPLE.

IN POLAND, THERE ARE OTHER VIEWS. THE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR WEST GERMANY TO GRANT POLAND ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS IN LOW INTEREST CREDITS PLUS SIX HUNDRED MILLION MORE IN A DIRECT PAYMENT. IN TURN, SOME ONE HUNDRED TWENTY TO TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND ETHNIC GERMANS WILL BE PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE.

THE SIX HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS ARE PAYMENT, POLISH OFFICIALS EXPLAIN, FOR PENSION FUNDS OF POLISH CITIZENS WHO DID FORCED LABOR IN WORLD WAR TWO GERMANY. THE MONEY WILL GO TO THE POLISH STATE, NOT TO SURVIVORS OF THE WAR. THE GOVERNMENT SAYS IT HAS PAID PENSIONS AND BENEFITS SINCE THE WAR AND IS NOW BEING REPAID BY WEST GERMANY -- COMMUNIST EAST GERMANY HAVING REJECTED ANY OBLIGATION FOR GERMANY'S NAZI PAST.

POLISH OFFICIALS ALSO CONTEND THAT MANY OF THOSE WHO NOW WANT TO LEAVE POLAND HAVE ONLY MARGINAL GERMAN TIES...THAT THEY ACCEPTED POLISH CITIZENSHIP AFTER THE WAR...AND THAT NOW

BECAUSE WEST GERMANY OFFERS A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING, THESE CITIZENS ARE LEAVING THE COUNTRY. IT'S NOT SAID DIRECTLY, BUT THE IMPLICATION IS THAT OPPORTUNISM IS SHOWING.

THERE IS ANOTHER DEEP-ROOTED FEELING, CLEARLY HINTED AT. IT IS THAT POLISH CITIZENS, EVEN THOSE WITH A GERMAN HERITAGE, ARE GOING TO A COUNTRY THAT INFLECTED TERRIBLE SUFFERING ON POLAND. IT IS NOT THE SAME ATTITUDE THAT EXISTS TOWARDS POLES WHO, FOR EXAMPLE, EMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES AND WHO FORM WHAT IS CALLED HERE, POLOGNIA -- THE INTERNATIONAL POLISH COMMUNITY.

RATHER, THE POLISH CITIZENS WHO EMIGRATE TO WEST GERMANY WILL NOT ONLY LOSE THEIR CITIZENSHIP -- BUT THE IMPLICATION IS THAT THEY CUT THEMSELVES OFF FROM POLAND. IT IS SAID HERE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT FIVE THOUSAND EMIGRANTS ALREADY IN WEST GERMANY HAVE APPLIED TO RETURN TO POLAND. OFFICIALS HERE SAY THEIR APPLICATIONS WILL BE LOOKED ON "FAVORABLY", BUT IT IS ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT NOT ALL OF THEM WILL BE ALLOWED TO COME BACK TO POLAND.

GH/RCS